Digital Information and Knowledge Management: New Opportunities for Research Libraries. Edited by Sul H. Lee. Binghamton, NY: Haworth Press, 2007. 117 p. $50.00. ISBN: 978-0-7890-3566-0. Copublished as **Journal of Library Administration,** v. 46, no. 1, 2007. ♾

This slim, easily read volume is a compilation of papers presented at a conference, ''Digital Information and Knowledge Management: New Opportunities for Research Libraries,'' sponsored by the University of Oklahoma Libraries and held March 3–4, 2005, in Oklahoma City. As such, it provides a snapshot of the thinking at that time about these topics and features glimpses of opportunities for libraries in the twenty-first century.

Keynote speaker Kaufman provides an overview of where libraries have been and where they are heading. Her advice to those working in this transformed future is to make choices that will help research libraries integrate themselves into the fabric of university life and research. Dillon asserts, ''the future of libraries is likely to be where it has always been, in providing a particular community with value-added information services that they cannot get elsewhere'' (p. 39) by focusing on and promoting what they do and do well. By comparing two digital library projects, Panitch and Michalak emphasize the need for research libraries to focus on performing work of a scholarly nature in this arena. Baker shares information about projects, both successful and not, so that research librarians can continue their long tradition of collaboration to make future changes. She suggests that in general librarians are ahead of the curve compared to their faculty when it comes to seeing the need to change how information and knowledge are handled and disseminated. Cullen warns of the dangers of simply being overwhelmed by the rapid increase of information and challenges readers to take measures that make it useful to others. What new skills and experiences will librarians of the future need? Baker answers this question in her paper. The final chapter by Shirk describes ways the tools for visualizing information might be applied by librarians to create an improved map of library collections.

Much has changed since the 2005 conference that serves as the basis of this book. Libraries, for example, are in partnership with Google to better organize and retrieve digital information. New tools in the area of social networking are being applied daily in libraries as research librarians reach out to their users and meet them in their spaces, thus integrating themselves into the campus fabric. This book provides an excellent historical overview of the issues and concerns of research librarians around digital information and knowledge management. After reading it, those wishing to learn about current applications and challenges should consult the journal literature.

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Electronic Resources in Medical Libraries: Issues and Solutions. Edited by Elizabeth Connor and M. Sandra Wood. Binghamton, NY: Haworth Press, 2007. 136 p. $90.00. ISBN: 978-0-7890-3513-8. Copublished as **Journal of Electronic Resources in Medical Libraries,** v. 4, nos. 1/2, 2007.♾

Electronic Resources in Medical Libraries: Issues and Solutions is a collection of ten articles about issues of electronic access and use of books and journals in medical libraries. Management of electronic resources has become an essential function for medical libraries. ''These papers offer some solutions to the issues surrounding electronic resources, and indicate areas for further research'' (p. 3).

Subjects of the papers include costs and challenges of shifting collections from print to electronic materials; collaborative arrangements and cost sharing that may save on the cost of bundled electronic journals; models for pricing electronic journals, development of electronic journals, and history of pricing; development of open access scholarly publishing and ways open access affects the pricing of subscription journals; and the issue of open access publishing and desired relief for library budgets.

Another topic emerges from the development of the new and primarily digital Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar (WCMC-Q). The WCMC-Q is the first US medical school located outside the United States. ''In Qatar, the Distributed eLibrary is accessed via more than 100 computers placed in offices, classrooms, labs, and clusters throughout the medical branch building and accessible through wired and wireless networks'' (p. 28).

Cooperative activities—initiatives to improve access to health information in Latin America and the Caribbean regions—offer ''a perspective on how such limitations were overcome through the establishment in 1967 of a cooperative network between the Pan American Health Organization and Latin America and Caribbean countries'' (p. 42). One instance involves two libraries that collaborate to share an electronic journal management system, TDNet, and reviews the implementation of the system. Another example covers the provision of mediated document delivery to off-campus students from the library's online collections or from interlibrary loan. It is of interest that the program does not require students to find the articles themselves.

Other topics include the development of a web-based online catalog that integrated the e-collection and the print collection and the peculiar reluctance of courts to permit suits in negligence and strict liability against publishers for erroneous information that leads to harm (p. 101) and reviews of implications for medical libraries.

In searching WorldCat for similar books about electronic information resources, this reviewer identified eight titles, but none were specific to medical libraries aside from this book and the Medical Library Association's DocKit #3: *Collection Development and Management for Electronic, Audiovisual, and Print Resources in Health Sciences Libraries* [1]. As one of only two books cited in WorldCat, this compilation fills a need and makes helpful suggestions for further research. Technology is advancing so rapidly and e-resources are so vital to health care that this book would be helpful to medical libraries in managing resources.

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1. Watson L. Collection development and management for electronic, audiovisual, and print resources in health sciences libraries. 2nd rev ed. Chicago, IL: Medical Library Association, 2004. (DocKit #3).

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Volk, Ruti Malis. **The Medical Library Association Guide to Cancer Information: Authoritative, Patient-Friendly Print, and Electronic Resources.** New York, NY: Neal-Schuman Publishers, 2007. 331 p. $76.50, members; $85.00, nonmembers. ISBN: 978-1-55570-585-5.♾

Are you having trouble finding authoritative information about cancer or evaluating what resources you do find for patients and the public? Cancer questions abound in library reference work because the prevalence and impact of cancer affects huge numbers of people each year with new diagnoses, treatments, and survivor issues. Most people have been touched by cancer through their personal experiences or the illness of family, friends, or community members. *The Medical Library Association Guide to Cancer Information* provides an excellent starting point for answering cancer questions in all types of libraries and for a wide diversity of people.

Having served as librarian for the Patient Education Resource Center at the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center since 1999, Volk brings a wealth of experience to her book. She also knows the importance of knowledge about cancer for patients and families from the personal experience of her young daughter's brain cancer. As she states in her preface, she hopes that knowledge about the disease will empower patients and families to make informed decisions. Volk's book is indeed valuable to patients, families, and librarians who deal with providing cancer information to the public.

Volk wrote this book ''to enable patients and caregivers to identify and evaluate the most authoritative, unbiased quality information sources in lay language to match a specific information request'' and to help librarians with collection development (p. xiv). To this end, Volk created short information guides that have a few carefully selected sources to be used as starting points for information gathering. Because cancer is an overall term for more than a hundred specific types of the disease, the challenge of answering questions can be overwhelming. In addition, the diversity of patients and their situations makes finding answers from the right information resource and providing that information at the right time for patrons a constant process for librarians.

Volk presents this information in three parts. Part I provides a concise groundwork of knowledge to provide cancer information to the public, explains key concepts and terms, and describes the most important general cancer information resources. Part II focuses on twenty-five adult and ten childhood cancer types, which were chosen based on incidence data in the United States. Part III covers topics that are common to all cancer types, including prevention, treatment, and quality of life. The author recommends that all readers master the introductory information in part I before proceeding to the specialized information in parts II and III.

Volk lists her selection guidelines in the preface of the book and aims to provide authoritative resources in patient appropriate language. This is a key factor because so much medical information is written in medical terminology and language that is difficult for many patients to understand. Volk covers a wide variety of sources and topics in different levels and depths and provides starting points for information gathering.

Using Volk's book as a starting point, an additional resource may be useful in some libraries. *Everyone's Guide to Cancer Therapy* by Dollinger [1] provides cancer information on a patient or caregiver level with contributions by physicians in each portion of the book. The guide covers much more detail and scientific information in an effort to be comprehensive. However, Volk's book can provide the starting point for finding more current consumer cancer information.

The Medical Library Association Guide to Cancer Information will be useful for all librarians who deal with patient and caregiver cancer information. Academic libraries and library schools would be wise to include this title in their collection for librarian training and general information. Public libraries will find it invaluable as a starting resource for all cancer questions from patients and consumers and as a collection development tool. Its clarity of presentation, summaries of cancer information sources, and lists of cancer resources in various formats are quick and simple to use. This book fulfills its goal to be the starting point for consumer cancer information.

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Using Interactive Technologies in Libraries. Edited by Kathlene Hanson and Frank Cervone. New York, NY: Neal Schuman Publishers, 2007. 97 p. $59.95. ISBN: 978-1-55570-612-8. ♾

Librarians know that interactive technologies are a part of any library's information provision and that many of these technologies may become rapidly outdated and replaced. Patrons only know that they want better and faster access. In this book, the thirteenth in a series from the Library and Information Technology Association, editors Hanson and Cervone address the ''hype cycle,'' indicating that some of the technologies described in this book may be approaching their apex and that ''librarians must learn where the hype stops and reality begins'' (page xi), which is a worthy admonition.

The book is a quick read, five chapters, and makes a case for five different technologies. Each gives specific instructions for implementation, showing screen captures and flow charts, and addresses issues associated with the respective technologies, helping to determine whether each is a viable choice for a particular library.

In chapter one, Walker presents a discussion of ''RSS Creator: A Journal Table of Contents Alerting Service.'' In years past, librarians have distributed print copies of journal tables of contents or created email alerts when those became available. As users began to find their email overloaded, Walker realized there was a better way to supply this information to his users. He grouped journals by subject matter and provided the tables of contents for several journals at once, simultaneously providing the really simple syndication (RSS) feed information and further access to full-text articles through the library. By combining metasearch and OpenURL-based technology to limit information to specialized disciplinary interests, Walker shows the true entrepreneurial efforts of a librarian willing to expend some effort to maximize the efficiency of searches and delivery of information in today's environment.

Law—the author of chapter two, ''Currency, Convenience, and Context: RSS Applied to Subscription Database Content''—provides an alternate perspective, that of a vendor. Law manages the ProQuest online search engine platform. His chapter focuses on allowing a nontechnical user to set up a search that is packaged and customized to the user's needs and is automatically updated. Some users may be familiar with similar efforts from PubMed, Engineering Village 2, and Factiva.

Law indicates that users are shifting from the ''search'' method of finding information to ''subscribe and filter.'' There may be a bit of a learning curve, but the author contends that providing faster, more meaningful results will make users happier in the end. Perhaps Law's best thought is, ''As with most technological innovations, there are issues to accompany the opportunities'' (page 32).

In chapter three, ''Wiki as Research Guide,'' Boeninger demonstrates how he put together The Biz Wiki at Ohio University. Boeninger is using the wiki approach to set topics related to business research required by his users. Previously, librarians have often used subject guides, otherwise referred to as pathfinders or research guides, to show listings in a subject area. The limitation on this process was that it requires someone with web-authoring skills and/or web-authoring software to create and maintain the pages. While this wiki system allows authoring by users, students have not used it yet. They need to set up accounts to do so, which may impede the process. Accounts need to be established to prevent spammers from oversaturating the site. The wiki does allow Boeninger to add topics easily from any location. If one student requests a source, Boeninger saves that information on the wiki, making it readily accessible for the next similar inquiry.

Bell takes on the subject of library blogs in chapter four, ''Library Blogs: The New Technology Bandwagon.'' The author takes the time to question the development of library blogs and usefulness of the results for patrons. Bell created a library blog and, through the use of JavaScript code, pushed the blog to twenty different course sites at Philadelphia University in 2006. Bell recommends taking the time to look at other library blogs, their content, and usage before tackling this project. He reminds library blog makers that when pushing information to courses, they are guests on the course site, need to keep blog postings short and informative, and regularly update postings. Bell ends the chapter by urging librarians to ''research the benefits of applying them to library environments'' (page 75) before tackling any such project. His own success was validated when instructors began requesting subject-specific blogs added to their different course sites in addition to the library blog.

In chapter five, ''An Introduction to Podcasting for Librarians,'' Himm and Rousseau cover podcasting as an example of what libraries can do. Where librarians have often supplied lists of index subscriptions or lists of databases on their websites, they can now extend RSS to include sound files as well as text. Users can automatically download sound files and listen to them on their personal computers or digital audio players. The wide array of creatable podcasts includes lectures, story time sessions, library orientation materials, and bibliographic instruction.

The authors go on to explain podcasts, their accessibility through MP3 players and from computers connected to the Internet, and the multiple sources of podcasts. These sources include major corporations promoting products, media outlets, government entities, and, of course, individuals. The ease of recording a podcast has contributed to an ex-

plosive growth in offerings. For those wishing to explore the podcasting field, the authors have suggested visiting several different library sites and their podcasts, which provide a wealth of further information on this topic.

This handy little book can easily be summed up with this quote from the preface, ''Librarians should endeavor to understand each new technology as it comes along, and ideally, learn how to use it themselves'' (page xiii). Hands-on experience is practically always the best teacher, and this book can provide assistance in exploring these new interactive technologies.

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